

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 127

By Jackson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend John W. Duke for his
laudable accomplishments and astute service to
the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to
specially recognize those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished
themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, John W. Duke is one such person who throughout his life has evinced the
greatest dedication and integrity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the Dickson County community, John Duke is
the loving son of Helen Myatt Duke and the late Clarence A. Duke, and the brother of Maxine
Cooper, Robert Duke, and the late Kevin Duke; and

WHEREAS, a distinguished graduate of White Bluff High School, he attended the
University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where he served astutely as President of the Phi Sigma
Kappa Fraternity; and

WHEREAS, after graduating in 1967 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial
Management, Mr. Duke began working diligently alongside his father and L.C. Simpson at
Burns Stone Company; and, in 1977, he duly became Vice President and co-owner of the
company until it was sold to Vulcan Materials in 1997; and

WHEREAS, John W. Duke is the meritorious founder, Chairman, and President of the Greystone Golf Club of Dickson, an 18-hole championship course that opened September 11, 1998; and he has been the co-owner of Cork and Bottle, Inc. since 1981 and Coldwell Banker Rose Martin Realtors since 1996; and

WHEREAS, he is also the innovative President of DuMar Developers, Inc., which is engaged in the development of the Druid Hills Subdivision in Dickson and a 600,000 square foot subterranean public warehouse development in Cumberland Furnace; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished leader, John Duke has served as President of the Tennessee Road Builders Association in 1990 and as President of the Tennessee Crushed Stone Association in 1979; and he is also a former President of the Dickson Kiwanis Club; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Duke is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people who life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, John W. Duke is the 2000-2001 Chairman of the Dickson County Chamber of Commerce, a valued board member of the Greater Dickson Gas Authority, a distinguished member of the Phi Sigma Kappa Alumni Association and the University of Tennessee President's Club, and a former member of the National Limestone Association; and

WHEREAS, he is also a benevolent supporter of numerous local civic and charitable causes, including his long-time sponsorship of the Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Mr. Duke has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, John Duke is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife Bo Smith, and their two children, Doug Davidson and Debbie Lastovka; and he is also blessed to be the grandfather of Kennedi Little; and

WHEREAS, John W. Duke is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby commend John W. Duke for his numerous professional accomplishments and his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee, and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.